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5 August 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

FROM: [REDACTED]  
Deputy to the DCI for Resource Management[REDACTED]  
Deputy to the DCI for Collection Tasking

SUBJECT: Defense Reconnaissance Support Program (DRSP)

1. You have expressed concern regarding the use of Special Air Force personnel to man the DRSP. According to Bob Hermann's plan, he will be the Director of the DRSP, and Don Haas will be the Deputy Director. We expect this means that Don will be more involved in running the DRSP than Bob, just as is the case today with the NRP. This could be advantageous: the dual responsibilities are likely to improve coordination and technology transfer. In addition, it means that you will have some measure of control, since it is you who appoints the Deputy Director of the NRP. On the other hand, management of the NRP is no easy job especially with the advent of several new systems. Adding responsibility for the DRSP to the Deputy Director's plate is likely to dilute the time and attention he can pay to the national systems. [REDACTED]

2. There is no indication how DoD plans to acquire the Chief of Staff of the DRSP and the [REDACTED] billets. They will have to come out of hide elsewhere. OSD has not reacted formally to this proposal, but we have heard at the staff level that the Special Air Force office is not at risk. We will watch carefully any moves to cut into the staffing required for the NRP. DoD is not likely to have an easy time finding people with appropriate skills to man the DRSP staff, and over time the dilution of the manpower pool because of the additional requirements could affect the NRO staff adversely. [REDACTED]

3. Rather than have you send a memo to Hermann at this point, we think it would be advisable for us to let [REDACTED] know of our concerns. We are in the process of setting up that meeting. The DRSP proposal still faces significant flak in the Defense Department from the Services and OSD; there will be time enough for you to weigh in after all the internal battles have been fought. Hermann recognizes that your concurrence is essential if the entire program is not to fall apart under congressional scrutiny. [REDACTED]

NRO review(s) completed.

WARNING NOTICE

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES  
AND METHODS INVOLVED~~SECRET~~

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SUBJECT: Defense Reconnaissance Support Program (DRSP)

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Rewritten:

EO/RMS, [REDACTED]

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